

Text Reply Latencies for Mental Illness Screening

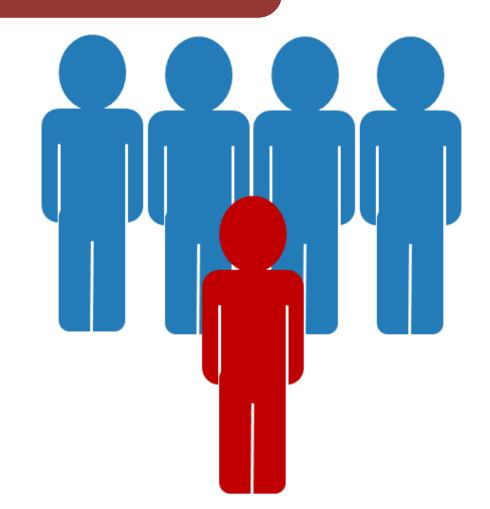
ML Tlachac, Bryant University Samuel S Ogden, CSU Monterey Bay



Motivation

Annually, more than 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness¹.

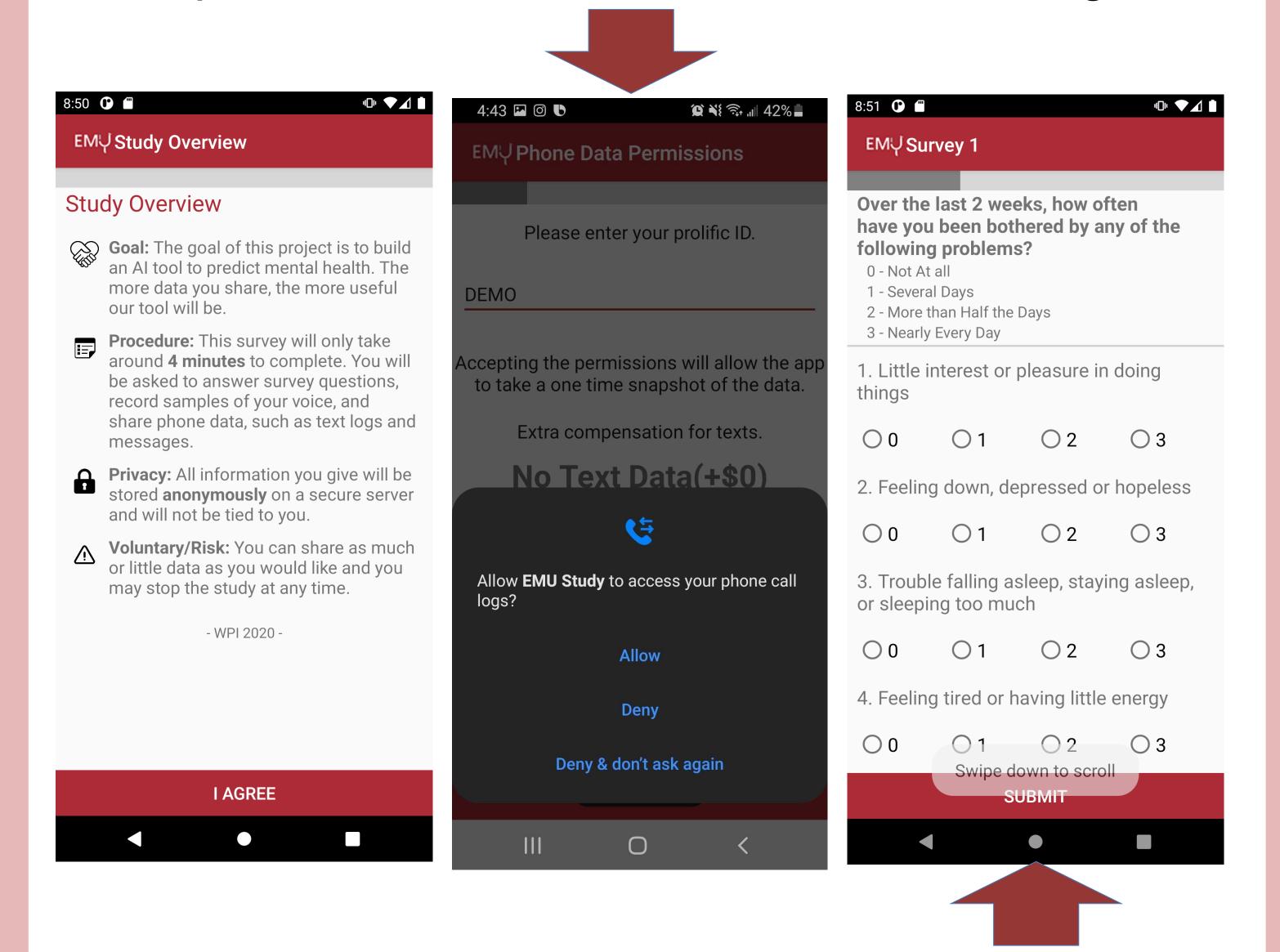
Text message content is useful for depression screening² but has privacy concerns.



How useful is text reply latency³ for screening?

Data Collection

Participants were asked to share their text logs.



PHQ-9 depression screening survey⁴ and GAD-7 anxiety screening survey⁵ used to label data.

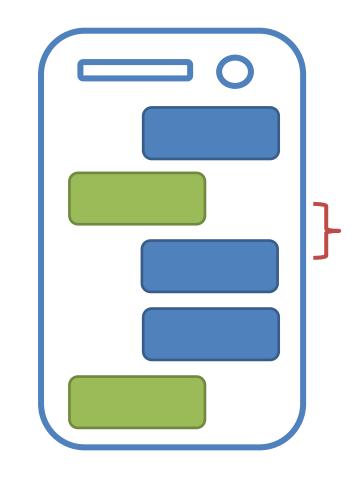
Dataset	Year	Data Labels	P
DepreST-CAT ⁶	2021	Depression, Anxiety	49
Moodable ⁷ /EMU ⁸	2017-19	Depression	46

Participants P with 7+ reply latencies in 2 weeks.

Acknowledgments

Elke Rundensteiner, Ermal Toto, Miranda Reisch, Katie Houskeeper, and other Emutivo researchers at WPI for data collection contributions

Reply Latency

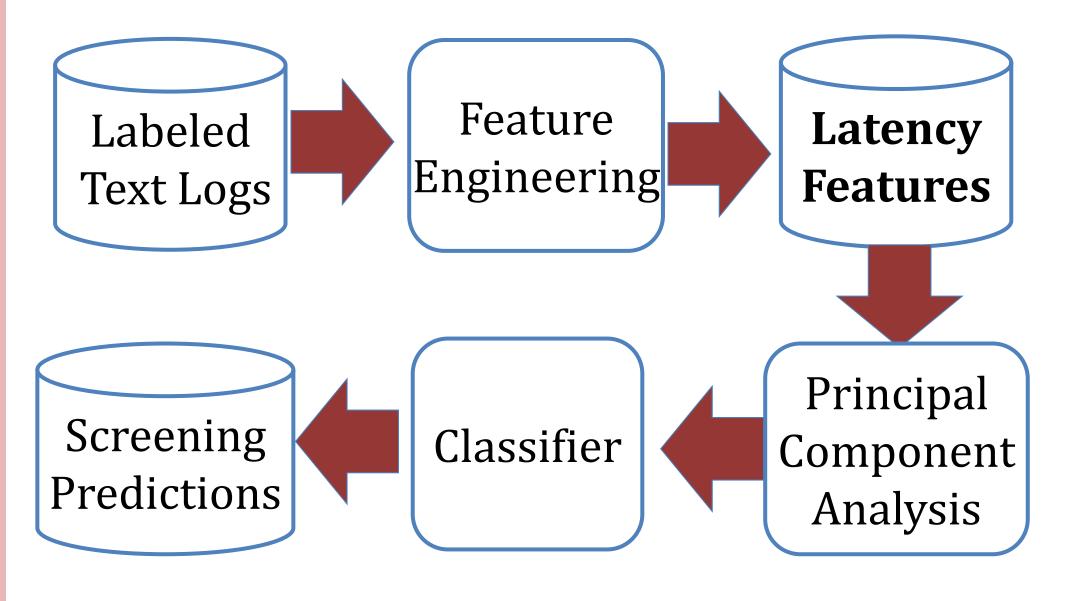


Reply latency is the number of seconds between receiving and sending a text

For each participant:

- Number of contacts
- 2. Number of replies
- Min and Max latency
- 4. 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90% quantile latency

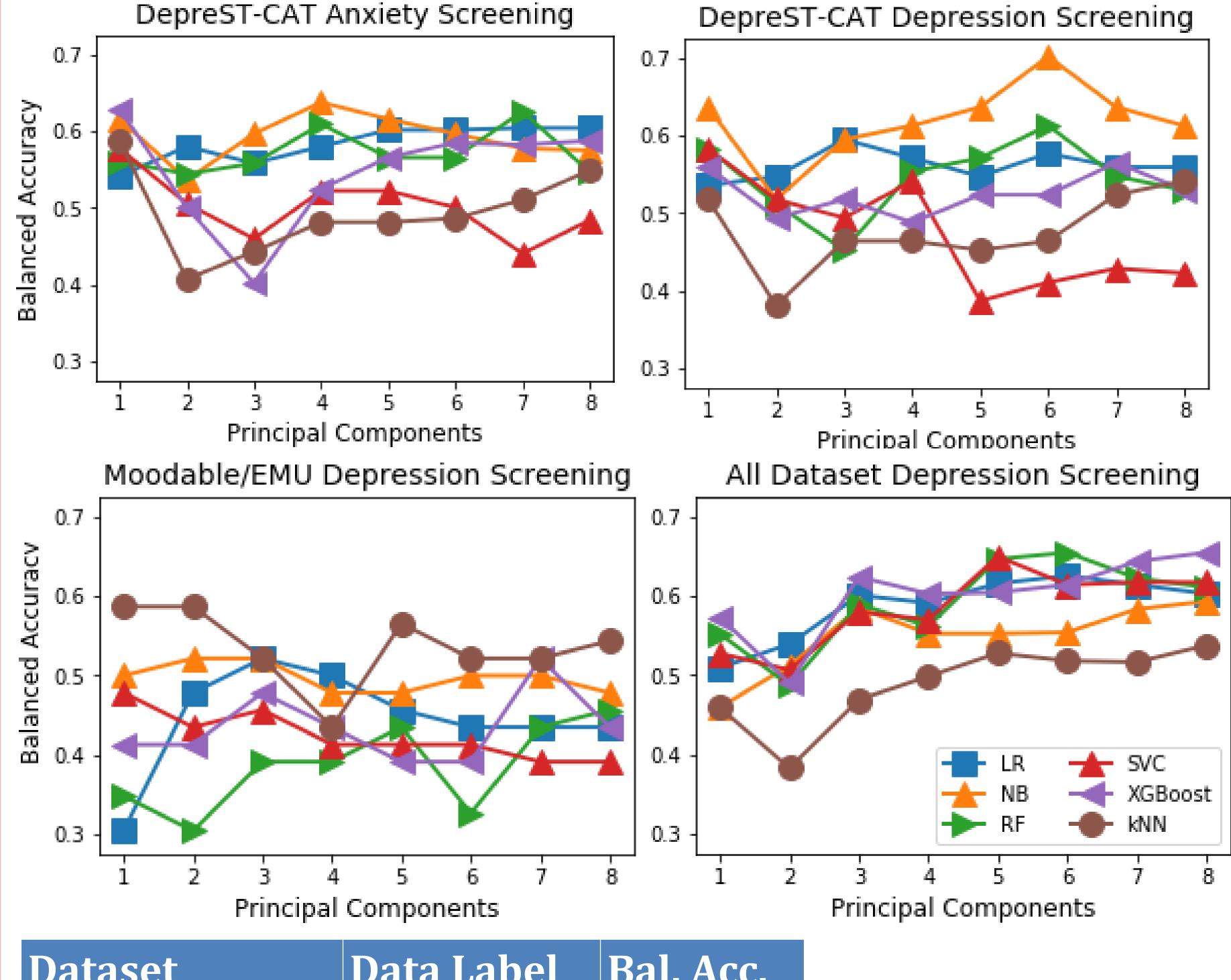
Screening Methodology



Classifiers

- LR = logistic regression
- NB = Naïve Bayes
- RF = Random Forest
- SVC = Support vector Classifier
- XGBoost = eXtreme Gradient Boosting
- kNN = k-Nearest Neighbor

Anxiety & Depression Screening Results



Dataset	Data Label	Bal. Acc.	
DepreST-CAT	Anxiety	0.64	Evaluated using leave-one-out cross-validation
DepreST-CAT	Depression	0.70	
Moodable/EMU	Depression	0.59	
All datasets	Depression	0.66	

Reply latency features are promising for passive multimodal screening due to being privacy-preserving and generalizable.

Published in: ML Tlachac, SS Ogden, "Left on Read: Anxiety & Depression Screening with Reply Latency", UbiComp, 2022

References

- SAMHSA, "Key substance use and mental health indicators in the US: Results from the 2020 national survey on drug use and health"
- Tlachac, Rundensteiner, "Screening for depression with retrospectively harvested private versus public text", IEEE J-BHI 24(11), 2020
- Tlachac, Rundensteiner, "Depression screening from text message reply latency", IEEE EMBC, 2021
- 4. Kroenke et al. "The phq-9: validity of a brief depression severity measure", Journal of General Internal Medicine 16 (9), 2001
 - Spitzer et al. "A brief measure for assessing generalized anxiety disorder: the GAD-7", Archives of Internal Medicine 166(10), 2006
- Tlachac et al. "DepreST-CAT: Retrospective Smartphone Call and Text Logs Collected During the COVID-19 Pandemic to Screen for Mental Illnesses", ACM IMWUT 6(2), 2022
- Dogrucu et al. "Moodable", Smart Health 17, 2020 8. Tlachac et al. "EMU", IEEE ICMLA, 2021